

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 12-14, 22-25, 45 and 67-72 are pending in this application.

Claims 2-11, 15-21, 26-44 and 46-66 have been cancelled.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a facial tissue product having a Specific Surface Volume ratio of about $0.08 \text{ mm}^3/\text{mm}^2$ or greater, a Hercules Size Test (HST) of about 7 seconds or greater, and a Mucus Removal from about 30 to about 70 percent. Support can be found in the specification at page 2, lines 1-2; page 2, lines 12-13; and page 2, lines 9-11.

New independent claim 67 has been added to recite particularly suitable facial tissue product having a Specific Surface Volume ratio from about 0.08 to about $0.35 \text{ mm}^3/\text{mm}^2$, a Polydialkylsiloxane Content from about 0.4 to about 5 percent, an HST from about 7 to about 50 seconds, a Coefficient of Friction from about 0.50 to about 0.60 and a Mucus Removal from about 30 to about 70 percent. Support for the various ranges can be found in the specification at page 2, line 7 (Coefficient of Friction) and originally-filed dependent claim 24 (Specific Surface Volume ratio), originally-filed claim 18 (Polydialkylsiloxane Content), originally-filed claim 14 (HST) and claim 44 (Mucus Removal).

New dependent claims 68-72 have been added. Support for the various ranges can be found in Examples 1-3, particularly in Tables 1 and 2.

No new matter has been added by the foregoing amendments.

By way of review, Applicants' invention is the discovery that facial tissues with certain features or attributes, previously thought to be incompatible with good mucus removal, can still be effective for removal of mucus. In particular, the use of polysiloxanes can improve surface softness, as measured by the Coefficient of Friction, and decrease absorbency and increase hand protection, as measured by the HST. However, these same features contribute to the decreased ability to clean nasal mucus because of the slick surface feel associated with hand protection (high HST values). Surprisingly, Applicants have found that facial tissues having good hand protection (high HST values) and proper texture (as measured by the Specific Surface Volume ratio) can provide good mucus removal.

Turning to the grounds for rejection, the claims are objected to for the use of acronyms. In response to this objection, all of the remaining claims recite the full name of the defined attributes being claimed.

Claims 1-66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in the use of the term "Coefficient of Friction". It is questioned whether the measurement is wet or dry, kinetic or static. However, it is believed that the claimed defined term is clearly described in the specification at page 2, line 33 through page 4, line 19. As set forth therein, the test is a kinetic test of conditioned dry tissues.

Claims 1-66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. 5,538,595 to Trokhan et al. or U.S. 5,573,637 to Ampulski et al. or U.S. 5,059,282 to Ampulski et al. or U.S. 6,162,327 to Batra et al. It is asserted that all of the cited references teach Applicants' claimed invention because they teach the same materials and process and therefore the products must be the same. However, while it is known to apply polysiloxanes to tissue sheets, it has not been appreciated that such treated tissues can be designed to effectively remove mucus while at the same time being soft with effective hand protection. One of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that there are an infinite number of possible combinations of tissue basesheets and textures taught by the cited art. Absent an appreciation for the problem (inadequate mucus removal), it is not obvious that the solution is possible. As mentioned above, Applicants have discovered a combination of sheet texture (Specific Surface Volume ratio) and polysiloxane add-on amounts that provides hand protection (HST), softness (COF) and the unexpected mucus removal effectiveness, which is an element of the claimed invention as amended. This claimed combination is not inherent or obvious from the teachings of any of these references. Therefore it is believed that the claims as amended are not anticipated, or obvious, based on the teachings of the cited references.

Claims 1-66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. 7,147,751 to Shannon et al. or U.S. 6,998,017 to Lindsay et al. As with the foregoing rejection, it is asserted that all of the cited references teach Applicants' claimed invention because they teach the same materials and process and therefore the products must be the same. However, neither Shannon et al. or Lindsay et al. teach a tissue product with the necessary texture (Specific

Surface Volume ratio of about $0.08 \text{ mm}^3/\text{mm}^2$ or greater) to accomplish the claimed result. Furthermore, since neither reference teaches any appreciation for the problem of mucus removal, one of ordinary skill in the art would not find it obvious to select the proper papermaking fabrics to attain the necessary claimed texture in combination with the other claimed properties (hand protection/polysiloxane content/surface softness). Therefore neither reference teaches or, in the absence of impermissible hindsight, renders Applicants' claimed invention obvious.

It is therefore believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,
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